



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

JOHN B. MATTHEW & LAURENCE H GOODYEAR

Serial No: 09/462,695

Filed: January 12, 2000

For: Improved Papermaking Screenplate & Method of Construction

Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Matthew O Savage

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

17238
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TC 1700

Applicant responds to the Official Action dated February 19, 2002.

Amend claims 1, 3-6, 8, and 11 as follows.

1. (Amended) A screenplate having very fine slots of selected width for screening devices comprising a plurality of elongate strips having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers having a thickness approximately equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the spacers having a width approximately equal to the width of strips and a length less than four times the width of spacers, and the spacers being separated from each other at intervals approximately two to twenty times the length of spacer, and the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded at intercontacting surfaces.

3. (Amended) A screenplate having very fine slots of select width for screening devices comprising a plurality of elongate strips having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers having a thickness approximately equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the spacers having a plurality of open areas defined by sidepieces joined by cross bars, the strips and spacers arranged alternately in a stack to define intercontacting surfaces with the strips aligned centrally of the spacers so that a portion of the open areas of the spacers extends beyond the side edges of the strips, the intercontacting surfaces of the strips and spacers being